

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3463

S E C R E T MANAGUA 0553

FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NU

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO FOREIGN
MINISTER MONTIEL AND DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF THE UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
IN MEXICO CITY

1. I DELIVERED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERSONAL LETTER TO NICARAGUAN
FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11TH. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE
SECRETARY FOR THE THOUGHTFUL EXPRESSIONS IN HIS LETTER, AND TO
EMPHASIZE HIS DEEP RESPECT AND REGARD FOR THE EFFORT WHICH THE
SECRETARY IS MAKING IN IMPROVING HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS.

2. I REVIEWED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE POINTS OUTLINED IN THE
TALKING PAPER FURNISHED AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN
GUATEMALA CITY, AND FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT HE WAS
EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE SCOPE OF UNDERSTANDING OF LATIN
PROBLEMS DEMONSTRATED BY THE POINTS OUTLINED IN THE TALKING PAPER.
MONTIEL SAID THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL AND OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THE
RESULTS OF THE UPCOMING MEETING IN MEXICO, AND WAS LOOKING
FORWARD TO HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FIRST HAND SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S VIEWS ON HEMISPHERIC AND WORLD-WIDE MATTERS.

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3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THERE WAS VERY LITTLE THAT HE COULD

ADD IN THE WAY OF SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS, EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE WORK ON THE "REFORMS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM" HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD "EXERCISE LEADERSHIP" IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PROPOSED REFORMS. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID HE HAD ATTENDED THREE MEETINGS DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT AND THAT IN EACH OF THE MEETINGS HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U. S. WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ANY CHANGES AND THAT THIS HAD CAUSED THE LATIN DELEGATIONS TO ENGAGE IN A GREAT DEAL OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "UNNECESSARY CONVERSATION", WHICH IN THE ABSENCE OF AN INDICATION OF THE U. S. POSITION TENDED TO BECOME SOMEWHAT "LEADERLESS IN ITS DIRECTION", AND THUS NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE.

4. MINISTER MONTIEL FELT THAT A SHOW OF INDICATION BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD PUT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THIS SUBJECT "BACK ON THE TRACK". MONTIEL DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE BUT THAT SOME CHANGES ARE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO SATISFY LATIN DELEGATIONS. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THE "MOOD TOWARD THE UNITED STATES" HAD CHANGED QUITE DRASTICALLY IN A FAVORABLY WAY IN LATIN AMERICA SINCE THE COUP IN CHILE, AND THAT HE FELT THAT THE TIME WAS PARTICULARLY APT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO EXERCISE A DISPLAY OF LEADSHIP WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MATURE PARTNERSHIP.

5. THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, ONE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT THAT WILL BE RAISED BY A NUMBER OF LATIN COUNTRIES WILL BE THEIR DESIRE TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF RAW MATERIALS. HE SAID THAT HE IS AWARE THAT JAMAICA WILL RAISE THE SUBJECT RELATIVE TO BAUXITE, FOR EXAMPLE, AND OTHER COUNTRIES RELATIVE TO THEIR OWN PRINCIPAL RAW MATERIALS. THIS IS IN REACTION TO DRASTIC INCREASES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE COST OF PETROLEUM, WHICH IN THE CASE OF NICARAGUA WILL MEAN THAT THE INCREASE IN PETROLEUM COSTS WILL, TO A LARGE DEGREE, CANCEL OUT THE VERY LARGE INCREASE IN HE INCOME FROM COTTON WHICH IS SELLING AT A VERY HIGH CURRENT PRICE.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF AN EFFORT WHICH HE FELT SHOULD BE MADE TO PRESS VENEZUELA TO UTILIZE, AT LEAST A PORTION, OF ITS HIGHLY EXCESS REVENUES FROM PETROLEUM FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA.

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7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADVISED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER TACK OF PANAMA HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM TO INVITE HIM TO JOIN WITH THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN FLYING IN A PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE PLANE TOGETHER TO THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD ACCEPTED TACK'S INVITATION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO PLANS TO GO TO MEXICO CITY AT AN EARLIER DATE. (MONTIEL WONDERED ALOUD

WHY FOREIGN MINISTER TACK WAS PRESSING THIS PARTICULAR INVITATION).

8. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED THAT I EMPHASIZE HIS DESIRE AND
THE DESIRE OF NICARAGUA TO COOPERATE IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY WITH
SECRETARY KISSINGER' AT THE MEXICO MEETING.

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